

sort of thing for a senator to say, to rise to his feet to go to the problems of addressing his fellow members to say he didn't know how he was going to vote on a bill, but I guess I am kind of in that position. I feel somewhat of a necessity to speak because I was chairman of the committee through which this bill came. When it came to the Legislature, it was a fairly clean, simple bill that I thought made a very good, strong public policy statement, and that was we are going to quit being halfway with our budgetary responsibilities with the university. We are going to say, if we are going to go with the dictates of the Exon decision, that it is the responsibility of the Board of Regents to budget for the University of Nebraska. It was a clean simple bill. Coming out of committee, however, there was a nice little amendment that got attached to it. Senator Elmer did an excellent job and I commend him for doing so, doing a good job of representing his district, which stated that the program in Curtis would continue to remain open for two years. I object to that again, not because I don't believe in the school at Curtis, it is a fine program. I have seen enough evidence that it is a fine program. I also think I tend to agree with Senator Vard Johnson that what is done in Curtis can and would be done equally well at other institutions of higher learning in the state. But it is a good program. I objected to that amendment because we are again being schizophrenic with what we tell the Board of Regents to do. On one hand we tell them, go forth and create a budget and determine how the money will be spent on the university. Yet we are saying for a particular special interest areas that we want this one hung onto, and we want this one hung onto. I think it would have been far cleaner and simpler to have passed the bill in its original pristine form. At this point, basically, what we are doing is passing a hold harmless bill for the university. We are saying to the university, no matter what we decide to do with Curtis, you are home free. You don't have to suffer any problems. If we decide to keep it open, we will do so by passing LB 656A. LB 656A is really the bill at this particular point. If that bill passes, then we will appropriate some new money. We will find that money out of mental retardation, perhaps, Senator Wesely, is where we will take the money, or out of state aid to education is maybe where we will take the money. Maybe we will take it out of the tech school's operation the way the bill is now written. We are saying to the university, you are home free. We are not going to take any more money from you. On the other hand, if the A bill doesn't pass, Curtis then becomes a closed sort of institution. I guess what I am going to do at this point is recommend that 656, because it is